



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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ELODEA LONGIVAGINATA
LONG SHEATH WATERWEED

Long Sheath Waterweed is an aquatic perennial with slender, few-branched stems that root at the nodes in shallow water. The opposite, strap-shaped leaves are up to 26 mm long and are 1-2 mm wide. The unisexual flowers have 3 petals that are 4-5 mm long, and 3 sepals that are 3-4 mm long. Male flowers have 9 stamens and are larger than the female flowers. The solitary flowers float to the surface of the water on the ends of long, flaccid stalks that arise from a tubular, 2-lobed bract that arises at the base of leaves. The fruit is a cylindrical capsule that contains 6 seeds and is ca. 1 cm long. Flowering in late June-July.

ELODEA can be distinguished from other aquatic plants by the long-stalked, floating flowers. *E. LONGIVAGINATA* can be distinguished from other members of the genus by its opposite rather than whorled leaves.